

Appl. No. 10/765,633
Amdt. dated March 2, 2006
Reply to Office action of January 6, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-42, 43-50 and 62 are currently pending in this application as amended through Amendment C filed October 28, 2005. Claims 1-20 and 51-62 were withdrawn after responding to the first restriction requirement of October 8, 2004; and Claims 1-20, 22-24, 26-29, 31-33, 38, 40 and 62 were withdrawn after responding to the election requirement of April 14, 2005.

In this amendment, Claims 1, 18, 20, 41, 49 have been amended; and

Claims 4-17, 21-34, 40, 42 have been canceled in this amendment without prejudice to filing a continuation with respect thereto.

Claims 43 and 51-61 were previously canceled without prejudice to filing a continuation with respect thereto.

Claims 2, 3, 19, 35-39, 44-48, 50 and 62 remain unchanged.

Claims 1-3, 19, 20, 38 and 62 stand withdrawn.

The amendment is set forth to comply with the Examiner's requirements and to otherwise place the application in condition for allowance. No new issues and no new matter have been introduced by this amendment. The amendment is thus believed to be in compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.116. Entry of the amendment and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 35-37, 39 and 44-48 have been allowed. Applicants note that Claim 38 depends from allowed Claim 37. Claim 38 stands withdrawn in response to the second restriction

Appl. No. 10/765,633
Amdt. dated March 2, 2006
Reply to Office action of January 6, 2006

requirement. In view of the fact that Claim 35 is generic with respect to Claim 38, and that Claim 38 depends from an allowed claim, Applicants request that Claim 38 be rejoined and be allowed.

Applicants also appreciate the Examiners indication that Claims 49-50 were objected to, but would be allowed if placed in independent form. Claim 49 depends directly from independent Claim 41, and has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 41. Claim 49 is thus now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 50 depends from Claim 49 and is thus also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 41 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of original Claim 35 (relating to the fact that the alignment key is generally T-shaped). Inasmuch as this subject matter was indicated to make Claim 35 allowable, Applicants believe that the incorporation of this subject matter into Claim 41 places Claim 41 in condition for allowance.

Withdrawn Claim 1, like Claim 41, has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 35, namely that the keying element includes a rib or leg having a cap on an inner radial surface thereof, and that the pipe segment is sandwiched between the inner wall of the coupler tube and the outer wall of the keying element cap. This amendment to Claim 1 defines the coupler of the watering system of Claim 1 to correspond substantially to the coupler as set forth in allowed claim 35, for example. In view of the fact that Claim 1 now essentially includes the coupler

Appl. No. 10/765,633
Amdt. dated March 2, 2006
Reply to Office action of January 6, 2006

with the keying element of Claim 35, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement with respect to Claim 1 and pending claims 2, 3, 18-20 and 62 which depend from Claim 1 be withdrawn. In view of the fact that Claim 1 incorporates the subject matter which the Examiner indicated to be allowable with respect to Claim 35, Applicants respectfully assert that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3, 18-20 and 62 depend from Claim 1 and are similarly believed to be allowable.

Claims 4-17, 22-24, 26-29, 31-33 and 40 have been canceled as being drawn to non-elected claims.

The Examiner rejected Claims 21, 25, 30, 34, 41 and 42 as being anticipated by Pfister, Pat. No. 3327945. Claim 41, as noted above, has been amended to incorporate the subject matter which was believed to place Claim 35 in condition for allowance. Hence, the rejection of Claim 41 with respect to Pfister is respectfully asserted to be moot. Claim 41, as noted above, is thus believed to be allowable.

Claims 21, 25, 30, 34 and 42 have been canceled in an effort to expedite issuance of a patent from the present application. By cancelling these claims, Applicants are not conceding that the claims are not patentable as asserted by the Examiner in the office action of January 6, 2006.

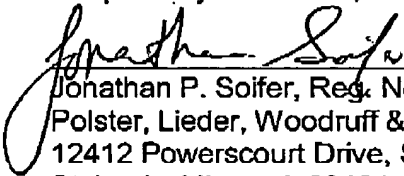
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-3, 18-20, 35-39, 41, 44-50 and 62 are now in condition for allowance. Entry of the

Page 16

28 February 2006
CUMB 6702US - Amendment 0.doc

Appl. No. 10/765,633
Amdt. dated March 2, 2006
Reply to Office action of January 6, 2006

amendment, reconsideration of the application and issuance of a Notice of Allowability with respect to these claims are thus respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 3/2/06
Jonathan P. Soifer, Reg. No. 34,932
Polster, Lieder, Woodruff & Lucchesi, L.C.
12412 Powerscourt Drive, Suite 200
St. Louis, Missouri 63131
Tel: (314) 238-2400
Fax: (314) 238-2401
e-mail: Jsoifer@patpro.com